STUNG

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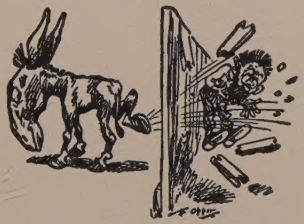
STUNG

BEING A COUPLE OF HUNDRED OF THE BEST STORIES EVER TOLD. STOLEN SCISSORED, SUGGESTED AND BUNCHED TOGETHER IN ONE BOOK . . . . . .

By BERT DAVIS



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STUNG

THE STINGER STUNG.

AN Irishman recently went before a judge to be naturalized.

"Have you read the Declaration of Independence?" the court asked.

"I hov not," said Pat.

"Have you read the Constitution of the United States?"

"I hov not, yer Honor."

The judge looked sternly at the applicant, and asked: "What have you read?"

Patrick hesitated but the fraction of a second before replying:

"I hov red hairs on me neck, yer Honor."

HE WAS DEAF.

A TRAVELING man after vainly trying to make clear an argument to a fellow-passenger finally yelled, somewhat angrily, "Why, it is as plain as A, B, C."

"That may be," said the other, "but I am D. E. F."

A STRANGER HIMSELF.

TWO gentlemen who for several hours one night had been assauging their thirst at a club left together to go home.

As they were meandering down the street laughing and singing, one of them suddenly became serious, and poetically remarked to the other, "She the beu'ful moon."

The other indignantly remarked, "'Taint the moon, 's the sun." The retort came back, "'Taint, 's the moon."

They argued it back and forth for some time and finally decided to leave the decision to the next passerby.

Shortly a figure appeared coming down the sidewalk on a similar zigzag course to that which they had followed. As he came abreast of them they stopped him and lengthily explained the subject under discussion and asked him to decide it for them.

The stranger gazed thoughtfully at the heavens for several minutes and then turning to the two sports he said, "Pardon me, ge'men, I really can't tell, I'm a stranger here myself."

A VALUABLE OFFICE BOY

THE employer was bending over a table, looking at the directory. The new office boy slipped up quietly and poked a note into his hand. The surprised employer opened it, and read :

"Honored Sir—Yer pants is ripped."

FROM DIFFERENT POINTS

"FATHER, you were born in California, you say?"

"Yes, my son."

"And mother was born in New York?"

"Yes."

"And I was born in Indiana?"

"Yes, my boy."

"Well, father, don't it beat the Dutch how we all got together!"

NOT IN THE ARMY, AFTER ALL

A METHODIST negro exhorter shouted :

"Come up en jine de army ob de Lohd."

"Come up en jine de army ob de Lohd."

"Ise done jined," replied one of the congregation.

"Whar'd yoh jine?" asked the exhorter.

"In de Baptis' Chu'ch."

"Why, chile," said the exhorter, "yoh ain't in de army ; yoh's in de navy."

SLIGHT MISTAKE

"OH," exclaimed the fair boarder, as a couple of calves scampered across the meadow. "What pretty little cowlets!"

"Yew air mistaken, ma'am," said the old farmer. "Them's bullets."

SURE PROOF.

"OFFICER," said the police court judge, 'what made you think the prisoner was drunk?"

"Well, your honor, as he was going along the sidewalk he ran plump into a street lamp post. He backed away, replaced his hat on his head, and firmly started forward again, but once more ran into the post. Four times he tried to get by the post, but each time his uncertain steps took him plump into the iron pole. After the fourth attempt and failure to pass the post, he backed off, fell to the pavement, and, clutching his head in his hands, murmured, as one lost to all hope: 'Lost! Lost in an impenetrable forest.'"

"Ten days," said the court.

HIS HORSE'S INTELLIGENCE

A FARMER had a horse he was anxious to sell, and one day while driving with one of his summer boarders the horse stopped so frequently as to lead the boarders to ask:

"What ails your horse that he stops so often? Is he balky?"

"No," replied the farmer, "he's all right. It's simply he's so darned afraid somebody will say 'Whoa,' and he won't hear it, that he stops to listen."

EASILY ACCOUNTED FOR

AN Irishman, upon arriving in America, was asked his name at Ellis Island. He gave it.

"Speak louder," said the officer.

He repeated it.

"Louder," again said the officer; "why, man, your voice is as soft as a woman's!"

"Well," said Pat, "that might be. Me mother was a woman."

NOT AUNTY — UNCLE

DRUGGIST (to the little girl): "Did you say pills, miss?"

Little Girl: "Yes, sir, please."

Druggist: "Antibilious?"

Little Girl: "No, sir, but uncle is."

BRIDGET'S REPLY

THE story is told of a well-known man, who, not finding his wife, went into the kitchen where the laundress was busy with the family linen, and inquired: "Bridget, do you know anything of my wife's whereabouts?" "Yis, sor," replied Bridget, "I put them in the wash."

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SHE COULDN'T SAY

MISTRESS: "Did the fisherman who called here this morning have frogs legs?"

Servant: "Sure, mum, I don't know. He wore pants."

THEN GRANDMA DID SOME THINKING

GRANDMA, did you like that gumdrop?"

"Yes, I liked it very much, dear."

"Well, Towser didn't. He spit it out twice."

HORRIBLE

TEACHER: "Anonymous means, 'Without a name.' Now write me a sentence bringing in the word."

And Willie wrote, "Our new baby is anonymous."

IN THE WRONG PLACE

THE tourist left the train at every station and went ahead to the baggage car to ask if his trunk was safe.

"Are you quite sure," he asked the baggage man for the sixth time, "that my trunk is safe?"

"Begorra, I wish that the Lord had made ye an elephant instead of an ass," was the exasperated reply, "and then you'd always have your trunk in front of you."

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"THE RETORT COURTEOUS"

A SCHOOL TEACHER sought to reprove a boy who had failed to solve an example.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," said the teacher. "When George Washington was your age he was a surveyor."

"Well," came the quick response, "when he was your age he was President of the United States."

HIS NEED WORSE THAN THEIRS

WE have been informed that newly married young ladies knead bread with gloves on. The editor of this book needs bread with his shoes on; he also needs it with his trousers on; and unless there are several thousands of this book sold shortly, he will need bread without a darn thing on.

HE THOUGHT IT WASN'T

PAPA," said a little boy, "is Rotterdam swearing?"

No," was the answer, "that is the name of a city in Holland. Why?"

"Well," said the boy, "Fannie Jones ate some of my candy to-day, and I told her I hoped it would rot-ter-dam teeth out."

ALL RIGHT IN CASE HE HEARD

"WELL," said the cheerful wife, who thought she had a soprano voice, "if the worst comes to the worst I could keep the wolf from the door by singing."

"I don't doubt that would do it," replied the husband, who had suffered much, "but suppose the wolf should happen to be deaf?"

HE KNEW HIS FATHER

"SUPPOSE," said a father to his little boy, "you have half an apple and I give you another half. How much have you?"

"A whole apple," said the boy.

"Well," continued the father, "suppose you had a half dollar and I gave you another half dollar. What would you have then?"

"A fit," promptly answered the boy.

WHY HE REALLY WANTED TO GO

"WOULD you mind if I went into the smoking-car, dear?" asked the bridegroom in a tender voice.

"What! to smoke, sweetheart?" questioned the bride.

"Oh, dear, no," replied the young husband; "I want to experience the agony of being away from you, so that the joy of my return will be all the more intensified."

TWINS IN THE MAIL

A TRAVELING man received the following telegram from his wife:

"Twins arrived to-night. More by mail."

He went at once to the nearest office and sent the following reply: "I leave for home to-night. If more come by mail send to dead letter office."

EXCLUSIVELY IN THE UNITED STATES

AN Irishman was walking along near a fort late one afternoon and heard the usual sundown gun. He asked a small boy what the noise was. The boy said that it was the sundown.

The Irishman replied, "Many a time have I seen the sun go down in the ould country, but I niver heard it make a noise like that."

PAT'S PATRIOTISM

AN Irishman on returning home to his native land gave vent to his joyful feelings by exclaiming repeatedly: "Hurrah for Ireland! Hurrah for Ireland!" much to the amusement of the passengers, but very much to the disgust of an Englishman on board, who finally retaliated with these words:

"Hurrah for Ireland! Hurrah for Hell!"

"That's right," answered Pat. "Every man for his own country."

HAD ENOUGH FOR THE PRESENT

THE deck steward approached the sick man in a steamer chair on the deck.

"Excuse me, sir," he said, "do you wish your dinner to come up?"

"Good Heavens, no, man," said the sick one; "my breakfast came up just a few moments ago."

AS ONE BOY TO ANOTHER

WHAT did you do, James, when Edward called you a liar?" asked the teacher.

"I remembered what you said, that 'A soft answer turneth away wrath,' " replied James.

"Good boy. What soft answer did you make?" queried the interested teacher.

"Why, I hit him with a rotten tomato," said James.

WANTED TO GIVE HER EVERY CHANCE

THE clerk was most obliging, but the young woman customer was hard to please. Roll after roll of blankets did he patiently take down and show to her; nothing suited.

For some fifteen minutes this mock sale went on, then the young woman said condescendingly, "Well, I don't intend to buy. I was just looking for a friend."

"Wait a moment, madam," cried the clerk. "There is one more blanket left on the shelf. Maybe you will find your friend in it."

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IT WAS THE WRONG END

A CERTAIN Southern railroad was in a wretched condition, and the trains were consequently run at a phenomenally low rate of speed. When the conductor was punching his ticket Artemus Ward, who was one of the passengers, remarked:

"Does this railroad company allow passengers to give it advice, if they do so in a respectful manner?"

The conductor replied in gruff tones that he guessed so.

"Well," Artemus went on, "it occurred to me that it would be well to detach the cowcatcher from the front of the engine and hitch it to the rear of the train; for, you see, we are not liable to overtake a cow, but what's to prevent a cow from strolling into this car and biting a passenger?"

THE SMALL SON'S DECISION

A BAPTIST and a Methodist minister were by accident dining at the same house. As they took their seat- there was an embarrassed pause, the hostess not knows ing how to ask one minister to say grace without offending the other.

The small son quickly grasped the situation, and half rising in his chair, moved his finger rapidly around the table, reciting, "Eny mene miny mo, catch a nigger by the toe." He ended by pointing his finger at the Baptist minister and shouting, "You're it!"

TOO MUCH FOR ONE WIFE

A NEGRO called at the preacher's residence and asked: " 'Bout how much will you charge me to marry me, suh?"

"Well," said the preacher, "I usually get five dollars."

"Lor', boss," exclaimed the negro, "I ain't gwine to marry but one woman!"

NOT ACCORDING TO THE UNION SCALE

A BOOKSELLER purchased a stock of books out in one of the new towns in Oklahoma Territory. Finding several sets of Charles Dickens' works in this stock he decided to make a special price on them, so he put all of them in the large show-window, with the following sign in very large letters:

CHARLES DICKENS WORKS ALL
WEEK FOR TWO DOLLARS

A Kansas farmer, who had drifted down that way to try his luck for a farm given to the lucky ones by Uncle Sam, walked up to this window. Reading the sign, he said: "Now, that's what's the matter with this country: the idea of a man working all week for two dollars."

HAD A "BARGAIN MOTHER"

THE arrival of twins to her mother was told to Ethel, the ten-year-old daughter.

"Oh, dear," said the little girl, "mamma has been getting bargains again."

WHY HE WAS SO CORDIAL

TWO travelers got into conversation, and one of them was most attentive to the other, pressing cigars, papers, and refreshment upon him. Their destination was the same town, and the seemingly much-interested one insisted that his traveling companion come to his home for the night. This completed the latter's astonishment. He felt compelled to ask the reason for such unlooked-for hospitality. He was enlightened by his would-be host replying: "My wife says I am the ugliest man in the world, and I just want her to have a look at you."

THE GENTLEMAN OF THE COURTROOM

ARE you the defendant?" asked a man in the courtroom, speaking to an old negro.

"No, boss," was the reply. "I ain't done nothin' to be called names like that. I'se got a lawyer here — he does the defensing."

"Then who are you?"

"I'se the gemmum what stole the chickens."

ONE BETTER EVERY TIME

AN Englishman who was entertaining his American cousin was continually annoyed by being reminded of the superiority of things American. A number of attempts to show young Jonathan something that distanced American progress all resulted unsatisfactorily, and the Englishman in desperation escorted the cousin to Mount Vesuvius.

"Well," exultingly remarked the Englishman, "you haven't anything like that in America."

"Well — no," replied the American, as he watched the outpouring of smoke and molten lava, "but we have a little Niagara Falls over there that would put the whole thing out in a minute."

SORRY FOR THE QUEEN

AN English professor wrote on the blackboard in his laboratory:

"Professor Wilson informs his students that he has this day been appointed honorary physician to her Majesty, Queen Victoria."

In the course of the morning he had occasion to leave the room, and found on his return that some student-wag had added to the announcement the words:

"God save the Queen."

A CLEVER CRITIQUE

THE play was "Hamlet," and the performance was for one night only. All the townspeople attended the show, and the weekly paper was held open for the notice. The next day the criticism read thusly:' 'Hamlet' was played in our Town Hall last night by Mr. W—— and his company. It was a great social event. There has been a long discussion as to whether Bacon or Shakespeare wrote the plays commonly attributed to Shakespeare. It can be easily settled now. Let the graves of the two writers be opened. The one who turned over last night is the author."

HAD NO MEANS OF REPORTING

GENERAL NELSON A. MILES, during his active service in the West, one day received a telegram from a subordinate who was injured in a railroad accident while on furlough. The dispatch read:

"Sorry, but cannot report to-day as expected, owing to unavoidable circumstances."

The tone of the message did not phase the General, and he wired back:

"Report at once, or give reasons."

Back came the answer from a hospital:

"Train off — can't ride; legs off — can't walk. Will not report unless you insist."

WHEN THE OCEAN BILLOWS ROLL

"I WAS coming from Liverpool upon one of the famous liners," says Bishop Potter, "and although the sky was clear and the weather warm a somewhat tempestuous sea had occasioned more than the usual amount of seasickness amoung the passengers. As I paced the deck one afternoon I noticed a lady reclining upon one of the benches, and the unearthly pallor of her face and the hopeless languidity of her manner indicated that she had reached that stage of collapse which marks the limit of seasickness.

"Touched by this piteous spectacle, and approaching the poor creature, in my most compassionate tone I asked: "Madam, can I be of any service to you?"

"She did not open her eyes, but I heard her murmur faintly: 'Thank you, sir, but there is nothing you can do — nothing at all.'

" 'At least, madam,' said I tenderly, 'permit me to bring you a glass of water.'

"She moved her head feebly and answered: 'No, I thank you — nothing at all.'

" 'But your husband, madam,' said I, 'the gentleman lying there with his head in your lap — shall I not bring something to revive him?"

"The lady again moved her head feebly, and again she murmured faintly and between gasps: 'Thank you, sir, but — he — is — not — my — husband. I — don't — know — who he is!"

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VERY LIKELY

ROMANTIC Young Lady, spending the summer on a farm: "Just hear how those old trees in the orchard moan and groan in the storm, like the crying of a lost soul!"

Small Boy: "Well, I guess you'd make a racket yourself if you were as full of green apples as they are!"

WHY HE SAW HIM

SOME years ago, according to "The San Francisco Argonaut," Phillips Brooks was recovering from illness and was denying himself to all visitors, when Robert Ingersoll called. The Bishop received him at once.

"I appreciate this very much," said Mr. Ingersoll, "but why do you see me when you deny yourself to your friends?"

"Well, you see," said the Bishop, "I feel confident of seeing my friends in the next world, but this may be my last chance of seeing you."

STILL HAD TO COME

THE Captain of an Atlantic liner approached a miserable looking man leaning over the railing.

"Waiting for the moon to come up, eh?" he asked good naturedly.

"Oh, dear me," ejaculated the ill one, "has that got to come up too?"

GREAT SUCCESS WHATEVER IT WAS

A SCOTTISH minister, taking his walk early in the morning, found one of his parishioners recumbent in a ditch.

"Where hae you been the night, Andrew?" asked the minister.

"Weel, I dinna richtly ken," answered the prostrate one, "whether it was a wedding or a funeral, but whichever it was it was a most extraordinary success."

HE KNEW

"NOW, my boy, tell me how you know an old partridge from a young one," asked the squire.

"By the teeth, sir."

"Nonsense, boy! You ought to know that a partridge hasn't any teeth."

"No, sir, but I have."

SO THOUGHTLESS OF HIM

WILBUR J. CARR, of the State Department, had occasion to call at the house of a neighbor late at night. He rang the door bell. After a long wait a head was poked out of a second-floor window.

"Who's there?" asked a voice.

"Mr. Carr," was the reply.

"Well," said the voice as the window banged shut, "what do I care if you missed a car? Why don't you walk and not wake up people to tell them about it?"

A COAT THAT WOULDN'T COME OFF

THE inspector asked the boys of the school he was examining: "Can you take your warm overcoats off?" "Yes, sir," was the response. "Can the bear take his warm overcoat off?" "No, sir." "Why not?" There was silence for a while, and then a little boy spoke up: "Please, sir, because God alone knows where the buttons are."

HE CAUGHT IT, BUT ——

THE ferry dock was crowded with weary home-goers when through the crowd rushed a man — hot, excited, laden to the chin with bundles of every shape and size. He sprinted down the pier, his eyes fixed on a ferry-boat only two or three feet out from the pier. He paused but an instant on the string-piece, and then, cheered on by the amused crowd, he made a flying leap across the intervening stretch of water and landed safely on the deck. A fat man happened to be standing on the exact spot on which he struck, and they both went down with a resounding crash. When the arriving man had somewhat recovered his breath he apologized to the fat man. "I hope I didn't hurt you," he said. "I am sorry. But, anyway I caught the boat!"

"But, you idiot," said the fat man, "the boat was coming in!"

YET TO COME

BLANCHE, Wilbur, and Thomas were all playing in the garden and making a great deal of noise, but small Jack sat in a corner very quietly, which was a very unusual thing for him. After watching them for some time the mother's curiosity prompted her to ask, "What are you playing?"

"We are playing house," answered Wilbur. "Blanche and I are the mother and father and Thomas is the child."

"And what does Jack do?"

"Sh, sh, he ain't born yet."

NOT ALL THE TIME, BUT ——

A MAN saw a waiter in a restaurant spill a tureen of tomato soup over a young lady's white gown.

The young lady, instead of flying into a passion, smiled. She said it didn't matter. She continued to eat and to talk as though nothing had happened.

This so impressed the man that he got an introduction to the young lady, proposed to her at the end of a month or so, and was accepted.

Some time after the marriage he spoke of the tomato-soup accident.

"I shall never forget it," said the bride.

"Your conduct," said the man, "was admirable."

"I remember," she said, "that I did behave very well at the time; but I wish you could have seen the marks of my teeth on the bedpost that night."

HE COULDN'T VERY WELL

A HUSBAND was being arraigned in court in a suit brought by his wife for cruelty.

"I understand, sir," said the judge, addressing the husband, "that one of the indignities you have showered upon your wife is that you have not spoken to her for three years. Is that so?"

"It is, your Honor," quickly answered the husband.

"Well, sir," thundered the judge, "why didn't you speak to her, may I ask?"

"Simply," replied the husband, "because I didn't want to interrupt her."

NOT WHAT SHE EXPECTED

A CHARMING, well-preserved widow had been courted and won by a physician. She had children. The wedding day was approaching, and it was time the children should know they were to have a new father. Calling one of them to her she said: "Georgie, I am going to do something before long that I would like to talk about with you."

"What is it, ma?" asked the boy.

" I am intending to marry Doctor Jones in a few days, and ——"

"Bully for you, ma! Does Doctor Jones know it?"

WHY SHE WANTED PARK LANE

A LADY carrying a little dog in a London omnibus wanted to know at every turning whether this was Park Lane.

She began asking the question soon after the 'bus started and repeated it at intervals all along the route, until at last she was told, to the intense relief of every body in the omnibus, that Park Lane was really before her eyes.

But they were not to see the last of her even then. "Look!" she said in ecstatic tones, holding the dog up to the window, "that's where your mother was born!"

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER OPPORTUNITY

A LITTLE girl ate at a feast a great quantity of chocolate eggs and bananas and cakes and peanuts and things of that sort, and finally the time came for her to go.

"But you will have a little more cake before you go?" her hostess said politely.

"No, thank you, ma'am. I'm full," said the little girl.

"Then," said the hostess, "you'll put some nuts and candies in your pockets, won't you?"

The little girl shook her head regretfully.

"They're full, too," she said.

TWO OF A KIND

A PRIVATE in the regulars went to the Colonel of his regiment and asked for a two weeks' leave of absence. The Colonel was a severe disciplinarian, who did not believe in extending too many privileges to his men, and did not hesitate to use a subterfuge in evading the granting of one.

"Well," said the Colonel, "what do you want a two weeks' furlough for?"

Patrick answered:

"Me woife is very sick and the children are not well, and, if ye didn't moind, she would loike to have me home fer a few weeks to give her a bit of assistance."

The Colonel eyed him for a few minutes, and said:

"Patrick, I might grant your request, but I got a letter from your wife this morning saying she didn't want you home; that you were a nuisance whenever you were there. She hopes I won't let you have any more furloughs."

"That settles it! Oi suppose Oi can't get the furlough, then?" said Pat.

"No, I'm afraid not, Patrick."

It was Patrick's turn now to eye the Colonel as he started for the door. Stopping suddenly, he said:

"Colonel, can I say somethin' to yez?"

"Certainly, Patrick; what is it?"

"You wont get mad, Colonel, if Oi say it?"

"Certainly not, Patrick. What is it?"

"Oi want to say there are two splendid liars in this room. Oi'm one and ye're another. Oi was never married in me loife."

A DEVOTIONAL TURN OF MIND

AS THE new minister of the village was on his way to evening service he met a rising young man of the place whom he was anxious to have become an active member of the church.

"Good evening, my young friend," he said solemnly, "do you ever attend a place of worship?"

"Yes, indeed, sir; regularly, every Sunday night," replied the young fellow with a smile. "I'm on my way to see her now."

WHY NOT?

"WHAT is your name?" asked a teacher of a boy. "My name is Jule," was the reply; whereupon the teacher impressively said, "You should have said Julius, sir." And now, my lad," turning to another boy, "what is your name?" "Billious sir," said the boy, trembling.

A GOOD SUBSTITUTE

A YOUNG man was selling pop corn on a steam car and offered some of his ware to an old gentleman, who replied: "What do I want with pop corn? I've no teeth."

The boy quickly said, "Sir, I have gum drops."

STUNG

AN IMPORTANT EVENT

"AND now, children," said the patient teacher, "the war with Spain began in 1898. Remember the year. Now which little boy can tell me what great event happened in 1898?"

For a moment there was no response. Then the smallest boy in the class held up his hand.

"I know, teacher."

"Well, Willie, what is it?"

"That's the year I was born."

A POSER

A MAN was met at the entrance of a depot in New York, by one of your typical street urchins.

" 'Say, mister, does yer want yer bag carried?' asked the boy, running after him.

" 'No,' he answered a little sharply.

" 'I'll carry it all the way for a cent, boss,' he persisted.

" 'Haven't I told you I don't want it carried?' he said.

" 'Don't yer?' said the boy, breaking into a trot to keep abreast of him.

" 'No, I don't. Now be off with you,'' he said glancing fiercely at the young devil.

" 'Well, then, mister,' he said, with an expression of anxious and innocent inquiry on his round, dirty face, 'what are yer carryin' it for? Why don't you set it down?' "

SO DID I

BILL NYE and James Whitcomb Riley were riding in a train of a Western railroad several years ago.

A farmer got on at one of the stations. A conductor pointed to the seat in which they were sitting and told the farmer that "Bill" Nye was in the seat. The farmer got up and stepping over to Riley said, taking him for Nye, "I knew your daddy." Riley understood the old fellow's mistake and told him that the other man was Nye and also said that he was very deaf.

The old man then said loudly to Nye, "I knew your daddy." Nye joining in the joke said, holding his hand to his ear, "Hey?"

The old man repeated still louder, "I knew your daddy." Nye again as before said, "Hey?"

The old man then fairly yelled, "I knew your daddy."

"Huh," said Nye, apparently hearing for the first time, "So did I."

QUICK WORK

A CHICAGO mother, on hearing that her sister had received a new little girl, said to Lillian, her little daughter: "Lillian, auntie has a new baby, and now mamma is the baby's aunt. Papa is the baby's uncle and you are her little cousin." "Well," said Lillian wonderingly, "wasn't that arranged quick."

STUNG

FROM THE LIARS' CLUB

EVERY interesting incident happened at a fire in a rubber factory in B———. The fire had started in the basement and had gained quite good headway before being discovered. Several hundred people worked in the factory, but apparently all had escaped.

The blaze had got beyond control and had reached the third story when the crowd watching the fire were horrified on noticing a man frantically waving his arms out of the fourth-story window and calling for help.

Escape from all the stairways was cut off by fire and it was found that the ladders were not long enough to reach him at the window. Many suggestions were yelled up to him, but none of them were feasible. Finally one of the fireman told him through his megaphone that the only chance he had of escaping was to wrap himself with rubber goods and jump to the ground. He disappeared within the building, the crowd anxiously waiting below. In about ten minutes he reappeared at the window with his body, excepting his head and feet entirely covered with rubber hot water bottles, rubbers, rubber boots and over all with rubber hose. He climbed to the sill and all below held their breath as he jumped. End over end he turned as he approached the ground.

He struck apparently unhurt and bounced twenty feet in the air. As he fell the crowd tried to catch him, but before they could do so, up he bounced again, owing to the thick padding of rubber he had about him. Again and

again they tried to catch him, but each time they failed. But for this fact the experiment would have proved a success. As it was he bounced up and down for three days successively and by that time had starved gradually to death.

CLEVER readiness of wit was displayed by a young barrister who was destined later in life to become Lord Chief Justice of England. His opponent, in a certain case, was badgering a witness for a yes or no answer to a question he had put, and he incautiously asserted that any question might be answered by one of the two monosyllables. "Indeed?" returned the future Baron Russell of Killowen sweetly. "Pray tell me, sir, if you have quit beating your wife?"

BUTTIN' IN

A NEWLY elected assessor in a small town somewhat misconstrued the law when he assessed one of the citizens eight dollars for his goat, which he discovered roaming about the street. This naturally enraged the citizen, and going to the assessor he said he wanted to know why he was assessed eight dollars for his goat when he could get a brand new one for five dollars. The assessor asked if the goat was not his property, to which he replied, "Of course it is." "Well, then," said the assessor, "the law plainly says that 'all property abutting on the street must be assessed two dollars per running foot.'"

STUNG

A MONKEY RANCH

DURING the last campaign," said Senator Heltfeld, "I spoke all over Idaho. One day, up in the northern part of the state, a wheel came off the buggy in which I was riding. I walked along the road a piece until I came to a rancher's house. The only person I could find was a big, shock-headed Swede.

" 'My friend,' I said, 'can you tell me where I can find a monkey wrench?'

"He looked at me blankly for a minute and then said: —

" 'No, this har ben a sheep ranch an' over thar ben a cattle ranch. I don't know where the th' hall's a monkey ranch.'"

A HUSTLER

AN office boy who was the greatest success as a failure and the greatest failure as a success that was ever seen was on one occasion sent by the city editor to the rooms of a well-known writer to get some "copy." Pretty soon was heard a clatter of feet on the stairs and in burst the boy entirely out of breath.

"What's the trouble? Wasn't he there?" was asked.

"No, sir, he's out and de joint's all locked up."

"Then why the dickens didn't you wait for him as I told you?"

"Wh-wh-why, dere wuz a note on the door dat said, 'Return at once,' so I t'ought youse wanted me back quick."

THE RETORT DISCOURTEOUS

AN Irishman got into a electric car, and owing to the crowded condition of the car was obliged to stand. Being of an inquisitive nature his eyes surveyed every passenger and then became fixed stolidly on a portly old gentleman who had a dog sitting beside him.

"Umph," he exclaimed to the conductor, as that wiry individual wended eel-like through the car: "It's a domned shame that O'is has to sthand when a pup can set."

Doubtless the Irishman impressed the conductor, for he ordered the portly fellow to remove the dog. Pat took the seat. His eyes surveyed the man, then drifted toward the dog.

"Phwat kind of a dawg is that?" he asked.

"A cross between an Irishman and an ape," came back the answer, curtly.

"O! be gobs, it must be relayted to us both," exclaimed the Irishman.

IT WAS NOW FULL GROWN

AN Irishman had one day to appear before a country magistrate for carrying a gun without a license. After being duly sworn, Pat was asked by the magistrate how long he had had the gun. He replied, "Shure, yer honor, that same gun has been in our family, the bold O'Raffertys, ever since it was a pistol."

COULD EAT, BUT COULDN'T SEE

A FARMER who went to a large city to see the sights engaged a room at a hotel, and before retiring asked the clerk about the hours for dining.

"We have breakfast from six to eleven, dinner from eleven to three, and supper from three to eight," explained the clerk.

"Wa-al, say," inquired the farmer in surprise, "what time air I goin' ter git ter see the town?"

FOLLOWED A PRECEDENT

AN inexperienced dry goods clerk after showing some silk to a lady, was told that the price was too high. The dissatisfaction of the customer was noted by the owner of the store, who immediately came over to the counter, and learning the fact that the lady was dissatisfied with the price, he informed her that he had just received a telegram saying that all the silk worms had died and that the price of silk was going up immediately. This ruse effected a sale, and gave the new clerk an idea as to the conduct of business in some cases. Shortly afterward a similar experience was had with another lady who was not satisfied with the price of some tape goods. He earnestly advised her to purchase, as he had just received a telegram saying that all the tape-worms had suddenly died, which would result in a consequent raising of the price of tape.

NOT FOR HIM

AN Irishman but a short time in this country, and unaccustomed to the names of the various articles put forth by the average restaurant, ordered "Hash." When it was brought in he carefully surveyed it and said to the waiter, "Here, take this and let the fellow who chewed it, eat it. I won't."

SHE WANTED TO WATCH HIM

AND will you have gas, madam?" inquired the dentist, as a stout, elderly woman entered his office.

"Well," she replied with a doubtful glance at the doctor, "you don't suppose I'm going to let you tinker about me in the dark, do you?"

WHY THEY DID IT

TWO old friends on the street, locking arms, strolled slowly along, discussing various topics. Personal ones were touched upon at last, and after exchanging family solicitudes for several moments, the judge asked the major:

"And dear old Mrs. ——, your aunt? She must be rather feeble now. Tell me, how is she?"

"Buried her yesterday," said the major.

"Buried her? Dear me, dear me! Is the good old lady dead?"

"Yes, that's why we buried her," said the major.

DIDN'T EXPECT EVERYTHING

WINNIE had been very naughty, and her mamma said: "Don't you know you will never go to heaven if you are so naughty?"

After thinking a moment she said: "Oh, well, I have been to the circus once and 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' twice. I can't expect to go everywhere."

WANTED TO BE OBLIGING

A LADY visitor, wishing to be polite to the little son of her host at table, said:

"What a pretty dimple you have, Benny!"

"You think that's a pretty dimple?" said the boy. "Mamma, can I show the lady the one on my stomach?"

THAT WAS EASY ENOUGH

PATRICK, did you steal Widow Maloney's pig, and if so what did you do with it?"

"Killed it and ate it, your Honor."

"Well, now, Patrick, when you are brought face to face with Widow Maloney and her pig on Judgment Day," said the judge, "what account will you be able to give of yourself when the widow accuses you of stealing?"

"Did you say the pig would be there, your honor?" asked Pat.

"To be sure I did."

"Well, then, I'll say, 'Mrs. Maloney, there's your pig.' "

HE SAW THEM, ALL RIGHT

TWO officers were sent to arrest a Quaker; his wife met them at the door and said, "Walk in, gentlemen; my husband will see thee."

After waiting some time they got impatient and called the woman, saying, "You said we should see your husband presently."

"No, friend," she replied; "I said he would see thee — he did see thee, did not like thy looks, and went out by the back door."

COULDN'T TELL WHICH

JONES had come home later than usual and had ready a good explanation, but his wife gave him no chance, and immediately began to tell him what she thought of him. He endured it patiently all evening, quietly read his paper and went to bed. His wife was still talking.

When he was almost asleep he could hear her still scolding him unmercifully. He dropped off to sleep and awoke after a couple of hours, only to hear his wife remark:

"I hope all the women don't have to put up with such conduct as this."

"Annie," said Jones, "are you talking again or yet?"

A CASE OF MUTUAL APPLICATION

MR. WOOD, a man very fond of playing jokes, met his friend, Mr. Stone, and at once inquired jocosely:

"Hello, Stone, how are Mrs. Stone and all the little pebbles?"

"Fine," said Mr. Stone, "all well, thank you;" and then with a twinkle in his eye: "How are Mrs. Wood and all the little splinters?"

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

ONE day an Irishman was seated in the waiting-room of a station with an odorous pipe in his mouth. One of the attendants called his attention to the sign: "No smoking."

"Well," said Pat, "I'm not a-smokin'."

"But you have a pipe in your mouth."

"Shure, an' I've shoes on me feet an' I'm not walkin'."

AND THAT SETTLED IT

"IF ye please, mum," said the ancient hero, in an appealing voice, as he stood at the back door of the cottage on washday, "I've lost my leg——"

"Well, I ain't got it," snapped the woman fiercely.

And the door closed with a bang.

A MISTAKE ON BOTH SIDES

AN old gentleman on board one of the numerous steamers which ply between Holyhead and the Irish coast missed his handkerchief, and accused a soldier standing by his side of stealing it, which the soldier, an Irishman, denied. Some few minutes afterward the gentleman found the missing article in his hat; he was then most profuse in his apologies to the soldier.

"Not another wurrd," said Pat; "it was a misthake on both sides — ye took me for a thafe, and I took ye for a gintlemon."

HE KNEW ONLY ONE

A TEACHER had been telling her class of boys that recently worms had become so numerous that they destroyed the crops, and it was necessary to import the English sparrow to exterminate them. The sparrows multiplied very fast and were gradually driving away our native birds.

Johnny was apparently very inattentive, and the teacher, thinking to catch him napping, said:

"Johnny, which is worse, to have worms or sparrows?"

Johnny hesitated a moment and then replied: "Please, I never had the sparrows."

THE REAL THING IN ANCESTORS

HAVE ye anny ancisters, Mrs. Kelly?" asked Mrs. O'Brien.

"An' phwat's ancisters?"

"Why people you shprung from."

"Listen to me, Mrs. O'Brien," said Mrs. Kelly impressively. "I come from the rale shtock av Donahues thot shpring from nobody. They shpring at thim!"

AT ANY COST

A DARKY preacher was lost in the happy selection of his text, which he repeated in vigorous accents of pleading.

"Oh, bredern, at de las' day dere's gwine to be sheep and dere's gwine to be goats. Who's gwine to be de sheep, an' who's gwine to be de goats? Let's all try to be like de li'l' white lambs, bredern. Shall we be de goats, sisters? Naw, we's gwine to be de sheep. Who's gwine to be de sheep, bredern, an' who's gwine to be de goats? Tak' care ob youh souls, sisters; tak' care ob youh souls. Remember, dere's gwine to be goats an' sheep. Who's gwine to be de sheep an' who's gwine to be de goats?"

Just then a solitary Irishman who had been sitting in the back of the church, listening attentively, rose and said:

"Oi'll be the goat. Go on; tell us the joke, Elder. Oi'll be the goat!"

THE RETORT COURTEOUS

A MERRY party being gathered in a city flat made such a racket that the occupant of a neighboring apartment sent his servant down with a polite message asking if it would be possible for the party to make less noise, since, as the servant announced, "Mr. Smith says that he cannot read."

"I am very sorry for Mr. Smith," replied the host. "Please present my compliments to your master, say that I am sorry he cannot read, and tell him I could when I was four years old!"

THE LESSON STOPPED

THE teacher was taking a class in the infant Sabbath school room and was making her pupils finish each sentence to show that they understood her.

"The idol had eyes," the teacher said, "but it could not——"

"See," cried the children.

"It had ears, but it could not ——"

"Hear," was the answer.

"It had lips," she said, "but it could not ——"

"Speak," once more replied the children.

"It had a nose, but it could not ——"

"Wipe it," shouted the children; and the lesson had to stop a moment.

HAD MISSED IT

"WHAT are you crying for, my poor little boy?" said a man to a crying boy.

"Pa fell down stairs."

"Don't take on so, my boy. He'll get better soon."

"That isn't it. Sister saw him fall — all the way. I never saw nuffen."

LITERAL, BUT TRUTHFUL

TWO gentlemen were traveling in one of the hill countries of Kentucky not long ago, bound on an exploration for pitch pine. They had been driving for two hours without encountering a human being, when they came in sight of a cabin in a clearing. It was very still. The hogs lay where they had fallen, the thin claybank mule grazed round and round in a great circle, to save the trouble of walking, and one lean, lank man, whose garments were the color of the claybank mule, leaned against a tree and let time roll by.

"Wonder if he can speak?" said one traveler to the other.

"Try him," said his companion.

"How do you do?" said the Northerner.

"Howdy?" remarked the Southerner languidly.

"Pleasant country."

"Fur them that likes it."

"Lived here all your life?"

The Southerner spat pensively in the dust.

"Not yit," he said.

NO DOUBT OF IT

THE lesson was from the "Prodigal Son," and the Sunday-school teacher was dwelling on the character of the elder brother. "But amidst all the rejoicing," he said, "there was one to whom the preparation of the feast brought no joy, to whom the prodigal's return gave no pleasure, but only bitterness; one who did not approve of the feast being held, and had no wish to attend it. Now can any of you tell who this was?" There was a short silence, followed by a vigorous cracking of thumbs, and then from a dozen little mouths came the chorus: "Please, sir, it was the fatted calf."

WROTE AS HE WAS TOLD

"CHILDREN," said the teacher, instructing the class in composition, "you should not attempt any flights of fancy; simply be yourselves and write what is in you. Do not imitate any other person's writings or draw inspiration from outside sources."

As a result of this advice Tommy Wise turned out the following composition: "We should not attempt any flights of fancy, but write what is in us. In me there is my stummick, lungs, hart, liver, two apples, one piece of pie, one stick of lemon candy, and my dinner."

HIS ATTRACTIVE SURROUNDINGS

ONE of the many friends of a noted humorist, upon entering their club house one evening, saw the usual group of admirers gathered about him to enjoy his witticisms. Passing over that way, the friend remarked: "Hello, old chap; surrounded by your coterie, as usual?"

"Yes," replied the humorist with a twinkle in his eye, "likewise by my panterie and my vesterie."

AFTER MANY TRIALS

HE was a sad-faced American tourist, and as he seated himself in a London restaurant he was immediately attended by an obsequious waiter.

"I want two eggs," said the American, "one fried on one side and one on the other."

" 'Ow is that, sir?" asked the astounded waiter.

"Two eggs — one fried on one side and one on the other."

"Very well, sir."

The waiter was gone several minutes, and when he returned his face was a study.

"Would you please repeat your horder, sir?"

"I said, very distinctly, two eggs — one fried on one side and one on the other."

Oppressive silence, and then a dazed "Very well, sir."

This time he was gone longer, and when he returned he said anxiously:

"Would it be awsking too much, sir, to 'ave you repeat your horder, sir? I cawn't think I 'ave it right, sir, y'know."

"Two eggs," said the American sadly and patiently, "one fried on one side and one on the other."

More oppressive silence and another and fainter "Very well, sir."

This time he was gone still longer. When he returned his collar was unbuttoned, his hair disheveled and his face scratched and bleeding. Leaning over the waiting patron he whispered beseechingly:

"Would you mind tyking boiled heggs, sir? I've 'ad some words with the cook."

A GOOD CHILD

A CERTAIN young man was about to take his senior examinations at college. Unfortunately at the same time his father was called away on business to Europe. It was arranged between them that a cabled "Yes" would tell the father that his son had passed and would graduate. The single word "No" would tell the opposite story. The father went abroad and became deeply engaged with the business and forgot his understanding with his son. So when he received a cablegram with the single word "Yes" he was naturally perplexed. He cabled back, "Yes, what?" The son simply replied, "Yes, sir."

CORRECT

A SOMEWHAT similar experience was undergone by another young man who, having finished his education, had been sent abroad by his parents to spend a vacation in traveling. He was supplied with funds and enjoined that if he went short he should cable for more. After a time he found himself called upon to send a cablegram, which when received read simply, "Cable funds." The old folks at home in doubt sent in reply, "What for?" The tourist explained as follows: "For Willie."

MAYBE

SENATOR PLATT and his wife, in visiting at DeLand, down South, were passing through the streets of the little resort when they saw an old colored couple approaching them. The man was staggering and the woman was lecturing him roundly.

"Evidently, you don't think liquor is good for your husband," the Senator said to the old lady.

"Good?" she replied. "Good? Course tain't good. 'Tain't good for no one. Why, honey, ol' Bill, he's ninety year ol' and dun drunk liquor all his life, an' look at him now! If he had left dat nimfural stuff alone he might o' been a hundred by dis yere time."

POLITE

PAT and Mike were going through the woods in single file, owing to the underbrush. Mike, who was first, pushed a low-hanging branch out of his way and it came back and knocked Pat down. He got up rubbing himself and with true politeness said to his companion, "Thank you, Mike. Thank you iver so much for stoppin' it. If you hadn't, it would have kilt me."

DIDN'T FLY

O'HOOLIGAN had not been in this country many days when he became involved in the meshes of the law, and the next morning before the magistrate he was asked his name, occupation, etc. He stated his occupation as that of a sailor. The judge scouted this statement, saying, "I don't believe you ever saw a ship." Pat, however, sustained the burden of proof by replying: "How do you think I come over — in a hack?"

A STRONG BOY

EMPLOYER — Yes, I advertised for a strong boy, Think you will fill the bill?

Applicant — Well, I just finished lickin' nineteen other fellers out in de hall.

KNEW THEM

"OH, yes," said the pilot on the river steamboat, "I have been on this river so long I know where every stump is." Just then with a jar the boat struck a stump. "There! that's one of them now," he continued.

DIFFICULT

SOME one asked Farmer Jones how many pigs he had. He replied that when he counted them there were nine, and the other one ran around so much that he could not count it.

HE CHEATED THE RAILROAD

PAT wanted to go to Chicago from Boston. A clever ticket broker took advantage of his ignorance and sold him a round trip ticket.

Not having been to any other ticket agent he was not aware that single tickets were issued.

Later it was a standing joke with him to tell his friends in Chicago how he had cheated the railroad by not going back.

PERHAPS

A CERTAIN prosperous farmer in a small country town in the South decided that he, like some of his socially competitive neighbors had done, would invite one of the circuit judges, on their next quarterly visit, to dine at his home.

Later the invitation was given and accepted.

The farmer's wife had made great preparations for the honored guest, but was somewhat disappointed when he came to the house to find that he was a very small and delicate-looking man, not at all the kind to do justice to the bountiful feast that she had spread.

The family had gathered around the table and the farmer, turning to his guest, said, "Will you have some roast beef, sir?" "Thank you, no." Said the judge, mildly and politely. "I never eat beef." "Then perhaps you would like a little of our roast pork," said the farmer, "I raised it myself."

"Thank you, no," said the judge, in his soft, ladylike voice, "I never eat pork, it disagrees with me."

"Then perhaps you would like some of this lamb," said the farmer, getting anxious. "Thank you again," said the weak-voiced one, "I never eat lamb."

The sturdy ten-year-old son of the farmer had been watching the proceedings with much interest, and had finally reached the stage where he must say something or burst.

"Say, pa, said he, in disgusted tones, "I wonder if the runt could suck an egg."

STUNG

TRIED TO TELL HER

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl, fresh from her first skating on the lake, dashed into a room where her sister was sitting "holding converse" with her most particular young man acquaintance.

"Sis, you ought to have seen me," she breathlessly cried; "the first time I stood up my feet went right up in the air and I came down plump on my——"

"Minnie," interrupted the sister, getting uneasy.

"Well, what?" asked Minnie. "My legs just scooted from under me and I came down plump on my——"

"Minnie," screamed her sister, "leave the room instantly!"

"But he's hurt," said Minnie.

"Hurt?" asked the sister; "who's hurt?"

"Why, brother, I came down on him, only you wouldn't let me tell you."

COULDN'T DO IT

IN a geography class a teacher asked: "Tom, your father is a sailor: would it be possible for him to keep on sailing always in the same direction till he came back to his starting point?"

"No, Miss Cameron."

"Why?"

"He's in jail."

AS BRIDGET HEARD IT

A FASHIONABLE woman had a bit of statuary bearing the inscription "Kismet." A housemaid dusting the room asked the mistress:

"Shure, ma'am, what's the m'anin' of the 'ritin' on the bottom of this?"

"Oh, you mean 'Kismet.' It means 'fate,' " replied the mistress.

Bridget was limping painfully when out with her sweetheart not long afterward, and he asked: "Whats the matter, Bridget?"

"Faith," was the answer, "I have the most tirrible korns on me kismet."

HER ONLY REQUEST

A LADY complained to her milkman of the quality of milk he sold her.

"Well, mum," said the milkman, "the cows don't get enough grass feed this time o' year. Why, them cows are just as sorry about it as I am. I often see 'em cryin', regular cryin', mum — because they feel as how their milk don't do 'em credit. Don't you believe it, mum?"

"Oh, yes, I believe it," responded his customer; "but I wish in future you'd see that they don't drop their tears into our can."

IT WORKED BOTH WAYS

JAMES BROWN, mate of the sailing ship "Penelope," was a good seaman but too fond of whiskey. Captain Doliver, having overlooked several lapses, warned him that the next offence would be entered on the log. The mate strove but fell, and one day the log written by the captain read as follows:

"MAY 13, 1876. Course S. W. by S. Lat. 42° 31′ 28″. Long. 151° 43′ 18″ W. Steady S. W. wind. Mr. Brown drunk to-day."

Brown read this entry with dismay, and seeking the captain implored him to alter what he had written, pointing out that the log would be read by the owners and that he would lose all chance of getting a ship.

"Well, isn't it true?" asked the captain.

"It is true, but ——"

"Then the record stands," broke in the captain.

Some days later the mate entered on the log:

"MAY 17, 1876. Course S. S. W. Lat. 45° 32′ 51″. Long. 158° 47′ 13″ W. Wind light and variable W. to S. W. Captain Doliver sober to-day."

When the captain read this his rage was unbounded. He summoned the mate and demanded how he dared to make such an entry.

"Well, captain, isn't it true? Were you not sober last night?"

"Of course I was sober," roared the captain.

"Then the record stands," said the mate.

SHE SAVED HIM POSTAGE

THE following letter was received from his sister by a New Yorker who was away from home on a visit:

"I am sending by mail a parcel containing the golf-coat you wanted. As the brass buttons are heavy I have cut them off to save postage.

"Your loving sister, J—.

"P. S.—You will find the buttons in the right-hand pocket of the coat."

THE RETORT COURT(!)EOUS

A BARRISTER named Bushe was trying a case in Limerick before Chief Baron O'Grady when, in the course of the lawyer's speech, an ass began to bray loudly outside the courtroom, the window of which opened on a pasture.

"Wait a moment," said the chief baron. "One at a time, Mr. Bushe, if you please."

The barrister presently had a good chance to retort. When O'Grady was charging the jury the ass again began to bray, this time at a greater distance from the court-room window.

"I beg your lordship's pardon," said Bushe. "May I ask you to repeat your last words? There is such an echo about here I did not quite catch that sentence."

COULDN'T GO THE LAST

AN Irishman had just "come over" and, being hungry, went to one of the swellest hotels in New York. When the waiter appeared to take his order he said, "Bring me the best you have."

After being gone a few minutes the waiter returned with a glass of water, a bunch of celery, and a lobster.

When about time to check him up the waiter returned to the customer, asking why he had not eaten his meal.

"Well," replied the man, "I drank the water and smelled of the bouquet, but I'll be durned if I could go the bug."

A VERY NATURAL CONSEQUENCE

A LITTLE girl who could not resist picking her mother's currants as fast as they ripened, after being reproved for it several times, still could not refrain. At last her mother called her to her and told her that thereafter whenever she was tempted to pull the currants to say: "Get thee behind me, Satan." But the next day the currants disappeared from the bush again.

The mother called her little one and asked if she hadn't remembered what she told her.

"Yes, mother," she said. "I did say 'Get thee behind me, Satan,' and he got right behind me and shoved me into the bush."

HE KNEW THE KIND

A SMALL boy in Boston, who had unfortunately learned to swear, was rebuked by his father. "Who told you that I swore?" asked the bad little boy. "Oh, a little bird told me," said the father. The boy stood and looked out of the window scowling at some sparrows which were scolding and chattering. Then he had a happy thought. "I know who told you," he said. "It was one of those —— sparrows."

NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE

"WILLIE," said a fond mother earnestly, "you should go to bed early. 'Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise,' you know. You should go to bed with the sun — the chickens go to bed with the sun."

"Yes, I know they do, mamma; but the old hen — she always goes with 'em!"

THE DIFFERENCE

THE famous Doctor Johnson was discovered one day, by Mrs. Johnson, kissing one of her serving-maids.

"Why, Doctor Johnson," said the wife, "I am surprised."

"No," said the recreant husband, "that is not exactly right, dear. I am surprised; you are astonished!"

THE MEEKEST MAN

"WHICH of you children can tell me who was the meekest man?" asked a Sunday-school teacher of her class, says a story in "Texas Siftings."

None of them raised a hand. Finally little Johnny Fizzletop raised his hand above his curly head.

"There!" said the teacher, "you ought all to be ashamed of yourselves. You great big boys have been coming to Sunday school for months and months, and here is little Johnny Fizzletop, poor little fellow, he never has had any advantages, and has only been coming to Sunday school for the past two weeks, and yet he knows more about the Bible than all the rest of you. I become perfectly discouraged when I think of it. I come here every Sunday and toil for you, and yet you can't answer so simple a question as what is the name of the meekest man in the Bible. Just look at little Johnny there, holding up his hand, while you hang your heads. You're a good little boy, Johnny, and your teacher is proud of you. Now speak up good and loud and tell these great big boys who was the meekest man. Speak up, Johnny."

"Please, ma'am, may I go out?"

CRUSHED AGAIN

HE called her Lily, Pansy, Rose,
And every other flower of spring.
She said: "I can't be all of those,
So you must Li-lac everything."

THE SAME AS EVERY ONE

THE mother of a child objected to a punishment given by the teacher to her boy, and calling upon the teacher asked, in tones that were icy: "Miss Harrington, I wish some information on this outrageouss proceeding. Kindly tell me just what end you had in view in punishing my son."

To which the teacher replied sweetly: "Why, Mrs. Grant, I had the same end in view that anybody would have in spanking a little boy."

SO SON, SO FATHER

A SMALL boy who had been very naughty was first reprimanded, then told that he must take a whipping. He flew upstairs and hid in the far corner under a bed. Just then the father came home. The mother told him what had occurred. He went upstairs and proceeded to crawl under the bed toward the youngster, who whispered excitedly, "Hello, pop, is she after you, too?"

A GOOD ARGUMENT

TO a teacher who asked the question, "What is dew?" came the well-reasoned reply: "The earth revolves on its own axis three hundred and sixty-five times in twenty-four hours. This rapid motion through space causes its sides to perspire; this is called dew."

HARD TO FIND

A JANITOR of a school threw up his job the other day, says "Primary Education." When asked the trouble he said: "I'm honest, and I won't stand being slurred. If I find a pencil or handkerchief about the school when I'm sweeping I hang or put it up. Every little while the teacher, or some one that is too cowardly to face me, will give me a slur. A little while ago I seen wrote on the board, 'Find the least common multiple.' Well, I looked from cellar to garret for that thing, and I wouldn't know the thing if I would meet it on the street. Last night, in big writin' on the blackboard, it said, 'Find the greatest common divisor.' 'Well,' I says to myself,' both of them things are lost now, and I'll be accused of takin' 'em, so I'll quit!' "

WHY SHE COULDN'T DO IT

A LITTLE girl of seven or eight years stood one day before a closed gate.

A gentleman passed slowly. The little girl turned and said to him:

"Will you please open this gate for me?"

The gentleman did so. Then he said kindly:

"Why, my child, couldn't you open the gate for yourself?"

"Because," said the little girl,"the paint's not dry yet."

WHY MR. DUFFY'S NOSE WAS RED

THE late Mr. Duffy, of Keene, New Hampshire, was well known for his lifelong total abstinence from intoxicants, which seemed somewhat at variance with the fact that his nose was very red.

On one occasion, when on business in a liquor saloon in his neighborhood, a drummer came in to sell cigars. To gain the good graces of the bartender he invited all in the place to drink, to which invitation all readily responded save Mr. Duffy.

The drummer went to him, and slapping him on the shoulder, said: "I say, old man, what are you going to have?"

"I thank you, sir-r, but I niver dhrink," was Duffy's quiet reply.

"What, you never drink?" said the drummer with a sarcastic laugh. "Now, if you never drink, will you please tell me what makes that nose of yours so red?"

The impertinence of the questioner at once aroused the irascibility of the old gentleman and he replied: "Sir-r, it is glowing with proid because it is kept out of other people's business."

HE COULD NOT RESIST

"I HAVE an almost irresistible longing to steal a kiss."

"Why don't you take something for it?"

PAID IN HER OWN COIN

A LITTLE girl asked her mother the reason for her gray hairs. The mother, thinking this a good occasion to teach a good lesson, said,

"When my little girl is naughty it makes me so sorry that my hair turns gray."

This was not a very pleasing thought to the little girl. She went to play in another room with her grandmother. In a few moments she returned and said gleefully to her mother, "Mamma, you must have been an awful naughty little girl; grandma's hair is all white."

THE BISHOP AND THE BATH

A CERTAIN bachelor bishop, very fastidious about his toilet, was especially fond of his bath and exacted extreme care of his tub.

Once when about to leave town, he gave strict orders to the housemaid about the care of his "bawth," and said that "no one was to be allowed the use of it."

The temptation grew on her, and the girl took a plunge. The bishop returned unexpectedly, and, finding traces of the stolen bath, he questioned the maid so closely that she had to confess that she was the culprit. Eying her sternly, he said:

"Mary, your using my tub is bad enough, but what distresses me most is that you would be willing to do anything behind my back that you would not do before my face."

IS MARRIAGE A FAILURE

A PORTLAND, Me., traveling man had been planning all the year to be in attendance upon the golden wedding anniversary of his parents, but when the time came he found that he was too far from home to get there in season. Accordingly he sent a valuable present to the old people and a telegram to his father. The latter read: "Dear Dad — is marriage a failure?" The answer came back in an incredibly short time: "No, but the results sometimes are."

THE MEANEST HUSBAND

A HOPKINS, Mo., woman thinks she has the meanest husband on earth. According to the journal of that city, she went into the bedroom last Sunday, finding him in front of the mirror with a razor in his hand and lather all over his face. "Are you shaving, dear?" she asked. "No," he growled, "I'm blacking the stove."

And the woman wept.

AN ACHING VOID

JONES," said Smith, "that's the second time I've heard you use the phrase aching void. I wish you would tell me how a void can ache."

"Well," said Brooks, "didn't you ever have a headache?"

CRISP TOASTS

"Here's to the man
Who owns the land
That grows the vine
That bears the grapes
That makes the wine
That tastes as good as this does."

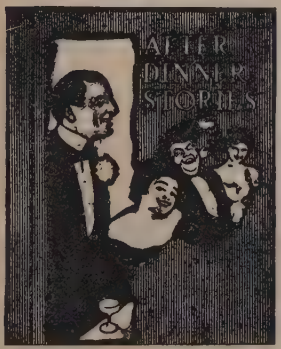
This is one of more than two hundred on the ninety-six pages of this new toast book.

It is the newest and best toast book published. It contains more new and more good toasts than any other similar book.

The book is printed in two colors, border design in green, type in brown on India tint paper. It is died out to exactly resemble a slice of toast.

Cloth binding, boxed, **75 cents.** Leather binding, boxed, **$1.50.**

AFTER DINNER STORIES



For an after dinner talk a five-minute recital of a witty story is worth an hour's oration of sober fact. The story, however, must be clever and genuinely humorous.

The compiler of this book has endeavored to produce a book distinctly different from anything published heretofore. Every one of the several stories on each of the ninety-six pages is good. There is not a dry page in the book.

Owing to the quantity of the anecdotes there is an almost unlimited selection. There will be found a story for every time that "That Reminds You."

The book is printed from new type on antique paper.

Cloth binding with cover design in three colors, **75 cents.** Limp calf binding, a special presentation edition, boxed, **$1.50**

"Funny Epitaphs"

"Here lies the body of Jonathan Near,
Whose mouth is stretched from ear to ear;
Tread softly, stranger, o'er this wonder,
For if he yawns, you're gone, by thunder."

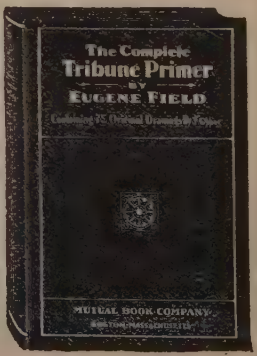
This is but one of hundreds of genuinely funny epitaphs in this book. Each one is authentically taken from an old tombstone. The book contains ninety-six pages of reading matter, and several pages in the back on which to jot down supplementary epitaphs, as they are collected.

Bound in green buckram, with cover design in two colors. **Price, 75 cents.**

Bound in limp ooze leather, presentation edition, boxed, **Price, $1.25.**

The Complete Tribune Primer

Eugene Field wrote the short skits contained in this book, during 1880 and 1881 for the *Denver Tribune*. Shortly after, a limited edition of fifty copies was privately printed. But two or three of these are in existence at the present time. One of them recently sold for several thousand dollars. Since the first edition this has been the first complete volume of these short sketches published. It contains "The Tribune Primer," "The Little Book of Nonsense," "Conkey Stiles," "James and Reginald," and "The Tale of the Two Friars." It is the wittiest thing ever written by the author, and coupled with the seventy-five illustrations by F. Opper, it makes an irresistibly humorous book.



Over 100,000 copies have been sold in the United States and England.

It is neatly bound in green cloth with white lettering. **Price, 75 cents per volume.**

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